

Appl. No. 09/755,978
Amdt. dated September 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 25, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 were amended in the Preliminary Amendment filed January 5, 2001. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9 and 10 were amended in the Amendment filed August 12, 2002. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 11 were amended in the Amendment filed January 28, 2003. Claims 1-11 were rejected in the Office Action dated June 25, 2004.

Please amend claims 1, 9 and 11, as set forth in the following listing of the claims.

1. (currently amended) An operating arrangement for a sliding door (10), comprising: a door lock (14) for locking the door (10) in a closed position of the door, a latching device (16) which is distant from the door lock and can be arrested in a positive-locking manner and serves for holding the sliding door (10) in its open position, an inside door operating means (18) having an inside door handle, an outside door operating means (20) having an outside door handle, a driven element (32, 44), and a plurality of connecting elements (22, 24, 28) including a first connecting element (22) ~~coupled to~~ extending from the inside door operating means (18) to the door lock (14), a second connecting element (24) ~~coupled to~~ extending from the outside door operating means (20) to the door lock (14), and a third connecting element (28) ~~coupled to~~ extending from the

latching device to the driven element, [[a]] the driven element (32, 44) being drivable by either one of the inside door handle and the outside door handle via respectively the first connecting element (22) or the second connecting element (24) to act on the latching device (16) via the third connecting element, wherein the door lock (14) and the latching device (16) are able to be operated mechanically by the door handles via said plurality of connecting elements (22, 24, 28), and logical functions for locking/unlocking the sliding door (10) are realized in the door lock (14), and wherein the first and the second connecting elements (22, 24) are provided respectively with driver elements (40, 42) for engaging the driven element, the driver elements being located between the two door handles and the door lock (14) at a distance from the door lock (14), to effect the drivability of the driven element (32, 44) by either one of the door handles, and wherein the first connecting element is uncoupled from the second connecting element enabling the first and the second connecting elements to move independently of each other.

2. (previously presented) The operating arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least for said two door handles, separate ones of said connecting elements (22, 24) and said driver elements (40, 42) are provided, the latter interacting with said driven element (32, 44).

3. (previously presented) The operating arrangement as claimed in claim 2, wherein the driver elements

(40, 42) lie directly next to one another and said connecting elements (22, 24) from the door handles run parallel to one another at least in this region.

4. (previously presented) The operating arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the driver elements (40, 42) act on a reversing lever (32) on which the third connecting element (28) to the latching device (16) is secured.

5. (previously presented) The operating arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the driver elements (40, 42) are uncoupled from the third connecting element (28) to the latching device (16) such that driving only takes place in one direction of movement of the driver elements relative to the connecting element (28).

6. (previously presented) The operating arrangement as claimed in claim 5, wherein uncoupled driving takes place by simple bearing of said driver elements (40, 42) against a driving surface (44) on reversing lever (32).

7. (previously presented) The operating arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connecting elements (22, 24, 28) are at least partially formed as Bowden cables.

8. (previously presented) The operating arrangement as claimed in claim 7, wherein said Bowden cables (22, 24) of the connecting elements from the door handles are continuous in a region of the driver elements (40, 42), and Bowden-cable sheaths (36) being omitted in said region.

9. (currently amended) An operating arrangement for a sliding door (10), comprising: a door lock (14) for locking the door (10) in a closed position of the door, a latching device (16) which is distant from the door lock and can be arrested in a positive-locking manner and serves for holding the sliding door (10) in its open position, an inside door operating means (18) having an inside door handle, an outside door operating means (20) having an outside door handle, a driven element (32, 44), and a plurality of connecting elements (22, 24, 28) including a first connecting element (22) ~~coupled to~~ extending from the inside door operating means (18) to the door lock (14), a second connecting element (24) ~~coupled to~~ extending from the outside door operating means (20) to the door lock (14), and a third connecting element (28) ~~coupled to~~ extending from the latching device to the driven element, [[a]] the driven element (32, 44) being drivable by either one of the inside door handle and the outside door handle via respectively the first connecting element (22) or the second connecting element (24) to act on the latching device (16) via the third connecting element, wherein the door lock (14) and the latching device (16) are able to be operated mechanically by the door handles via said plurality of

connecting elements (22, 24, 28), and logical functions for locking/unlocking the sliding door (10) are realized in the door lock (14), and wherein the first and the second connecting elements (22, 24) are provided respectively with drive elements (40, 42) for engaging the driven element, the driver elements being located between the two door handles and the door lock (14), at a distance from the door lock (14) to effect the drivability of the driven element (32, 44) by either one of the door handles;

wherein individual ones of the plurality of connecting elements (22, 24, 28) are at least partially formed as Bowden cables, and said Bowden cables (22, 24) of the first and the second connecting elements from the door handles are continuous in a region of the driver elements (40, 42), Bowden-cable sheaths (36) being omitted in said region, the driven element comprising a reversing lever (32) pivotably mounted within a housing body (30); and

Bowden-cable sheaths (36) of the first and the second connecting elements (22, 24) are end molded onto walls of the housing body (30) on which the reversing lever (32) is pivotably mounted.

10. (previously presented) The operating arrangement as claimed in claim 9, wherein said housing body (30) is of substantially mirror-symmetrical formation.

11. (currently amended) A system for operating a sliding door in a vehicle, the system comprising:

a door lock for securing the door in its closed position, a latching device which is distant from the door lock and can be arrested in a positive-locking manner to hold the sliding door in its open position, an inside door operating means having an inside door handle, an outside door operating means having an outside door handle, a driven element, a plurality of connecting elements including a first connecting element extending from the inside door operating means to the door lock, a second connecting element extending from the outside door operating means to the door lock, and a third connecting element extending from the latching device to the driven element, and a ~~the~~ driven element having opposed first and second ends;

wherein the door lock and the latching device are operated mechanically by the inside and the outside door handles via respectively ~~[[a]]~~ the first and ~~[[a]]~~ the second of said connecting elements; logical functions for locking/unlocking the sliding door are realized in the door lock; the first and the second connecting elements ~~connect to~~ engage ~~with~~ the first end of the driven element and act via a pivoting of the driven element and via the third connecting element to drive the latching device, the latching device being coupled via ~~[[a]]~~ the third one of said connecting elements to the second end of said driven element, and wherein the first and the second connecting elements are provided with driver elements located between the inside door handle and the outside door handle and

the door lock at a distance from the door lock to effect the drivability of the driven element ~~(32, 44)~~ by either one of the door handles.